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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Satoshi TAKANO

Group Art Unit: 2825

Application No.: 09/819,690

Examiner: R. Rocchegiani

Filed: March 29, 2001

Docket No.: 109107

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING METHOD, SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD, AND SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the July 26, 2002 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elects Group 1, claims 1-6, drawn to a method of forming a device, classified in class 438, subclass 680. This election is made with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-8 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would necessary encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

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The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the election of Restriction Requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 13, 2002

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